

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY
M E D I C A L E X A M I N E R D E P A R T M E N T
NUMBER 1 ON BOB HOPE RD MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136 (305) 545-9400
INVESTIGATION REPORT

M.E. CASE NO. 87-2633 A
DATE OCT/02/87

ROZIER, EDITH
28 BLACK FEMALE DOB MAR/13/59
744 N W 36TH STREET, MIAMI, FLA

PLACE OF DEATH: FIELD: N W 7TH AVE AND 31ST ST., MIAMI, FLA
TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 3:30AM OCT/02/87

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: MIAMI #2751150-L-VINSON

INCIDENT LOCATION: 3350 N W 7TH AVE., MIAMI, FLA
OCT/02/87 AM SCENE M.E. CHARLES V. WETLI MD

HISTORY:

CVW

ACCORDING TO INITIAL POLICE INVESTIGATION: THE DECEASED WAS A KNOWN PROSTITUTE AND DRUG ABUSER WHO LIVED IN THE AREA. SHE WAS LAST SEEN ALIVE ON OCTOBER 2, 1987 ABT. 3:00 A.M. AT WHICH TIME SHE WAS PROPOSITIONING A PROSPECTIVE CLIENT ON THE STREET AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER, SHE AND THE CLIENT WAS SEEN GOING BEHIND 3350 N W 7TH AVENUE IN A BUSHY AREA. SHE WAS FOUND ABT. 3:30 A.M. LYING IN A BUSHY AREA ON HER BACK, DOA. POLICE AND DR. CHARLES V. WETLI, RESPONDED TO THE SCENE OBSERVED NO OBVIOUS SIGNS OF TRAUMA.

CAUSE OF DEATH: HOMICIDE BY INSPECIFIED MEANS -AMENDED BY J. H. DAVIS, M.D.,
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER -6/19/89-DJM.

MANNER: HOMICIDE DATE AUTOPSY OCT/02/87 BY CHARLES V. WETLI MD

MORTUARY: POITIER

CVW

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY
M E D I C A L E X A M I N E R D E P A R T M E N T
1050 N.W. 19TH STREET MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136 (305) 549-7337
INVESTIGATION REPORT

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CAUSE OF DEATH: COCAINE INTOXICATION. REFILED: 11/23/87-DJM.

MANNER: ACCIDENT DATE AUTOPSY OCT/02/87 BY CHARLES V. WETLI MD

MORTUARY: POITIER

CVW

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT

CLASSIFICATION OF PENDING CASE

(THIS FORM IS TO BE USED BY A MEDICAL EXAMINER WHEN A PENDING CASE IS TO BE CLASSIFIED. MAKE CERTAIN THAT THERE IS AN APPROVAL BY EITHER THE CHIEF OR DEPUTY CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER BEFORE COMPLETING THE NECESSARY FORMS AND CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY THE STATE.)

M.E. Case # 87-2633

Name (if known) ROZIER, EDITH.

Cause of Death:
(Item 24)

COCAINE INTOXICATION.

Due to:

Due to:

Contributory Cause:

Manner of Death: Accid.
(Item 27a)

How Incident Occurred: D. ingested cocaine.
(Item 27d)

Rationale for Classification:

Circumstances of death.

Act of using crack.

Tox: Blood = 0.38 mg/L cocaine

[Signature]
Medical Examiner

12 19 87
M - D - Y
Date

Approved by _____

[Signature]
M - D - Y
Date

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY
M E D I C A L E X A M I N E R D E P A R T M E N T
1050 N.W. 19TH STREET MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136 (305) 549-7337
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744 N W 36TH STREET, MIAMI, FLA

PLACE OF DEATH: FIELD: N W 7TH AVE AND 31ST ST., MIAMI, FLA
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INVESTIGATING AGENCY: MIAMI #2751150-L-VINSON

INCIDENT LOCATION: 3350 N W 7TH AVE., MIAMI, FLA
OCT/02/87 AM SCENE M.E. CHARLES V. WETLI MD

HISTORY:

CVW

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CAUSE OF DEATH: PENDING TOXICOLOGY.

MANNER: UNCLASSIFIED DATE AUTOPSY OCT/02/87 BY CHARLES V. WETLI MD

MORTUARY: POITIER

CVW

Name..ROZIER, Edith.....Case No. 87-2633

SCENE INVESTIGATION

DATE: 10/2/87
LOCATION: N.W.31 St.& 7 Ave,Miami, Fl.
TIME ARRIVED AT SCENE: Approx. 6:15 a.m.
POLICE AGENCY: MPD
LEAD INVESTIGATOR: Det. John Spear

INITIAL INFORMATION:

The victim was an individual known to be a cocaine-crack user and also apparently was thought to be a local prostitute who worked this particular area, particularly late at night. She apparently was last seen alive with an unknown man and retreated to some bushes near a building. Approximately a half hour later, a resident of the area peered into the bushes and saw her lying there motionless. He then went to a nearby Fire Rescue Station, approximately a block away and they examined the victim and pronounced her dead.

OBSERVATIONS OF SURROUNDINGS:

The victim was lying supine near the wall of a building behind some bushes. At one end of the building, the bushes are not quite as dense and the area is easily approached. A pair of blue shorts is found on the ground and nearby, next to the wall of the building, is a shoe, apparently hers. A pair of shoes and red panties are lying next to the body. Just above and to her left is a towel which she supposedly also wore. Also, adjacent to the body is a beer can that is partially folded and has several slits cut into one portion of it.

OBSERVATIONS OF VICTIM (S):

The body is cool and she is lying supine. The body is naked from the waist down and the top is covered only by a shirt knotted at the bottom (Fire Rescue Unit indicated that they opened the shirt partially a little bit more.) Electrocardiographic pads are also on the chest. The scalp is atraumatic and the eyes are free of petechiae. A few small abrasions are on the right side of the lower lip. The upper front teeth are absent. Numerous scars are observed over the extremities, particularly on the left side. No peculiar marks on the neck are found. A small amount of blood is around the vaginal area. Fecal material covers the anal region.

SCENE IMPRESSION (INCLUDING PROBABLE CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH):


Probable drug overdose.

NOTE: The foregoing is of a speculative nature and subject to modification pending additional information and

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name..ROZIER, Edith.....Case No. 87-2633

investigation.


CHARLES V. WETLI, M.D.
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

CVW:mu

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY

Office of the Medical Examiner

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Police Case No. 275 11502

NAME OF THE DECEASED: BETH ROZIER

Age 28 Race N Sex F

Address 744 NW 36 St

Date of Birth 3-13-59

Social Security No. _____ Occupation _____ Employer _____

Place of Death NW 7 Ave + 31st (IN BUSHES)

Death Occurred UNK 19____, ____ M. in the presence of _____

or Found Dead 10-2 1987, 330A M. by _____

Identified by _____ Address _____

Date/Time Viewed by Investigator 10-2 1987, 0530A M. Medical Examiner at Scene Dr. Wetli

HISTORY: (What happened just prior to death and when was victim last seen alive?)

last seen alive at 2300 hrs propositioning a client on the street. She took the client behind the bushes and did not come out.

Possible manner of death Unclarified

If Violent Death: Date/Time of Incident _____ 19____, ____ M. Weapon/Cal. _____

Exact Location/Address of Incident 3350 NW 7 Ave At work No
(Specify Street, Parking Lot, Bar etc.)

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing _____

Position/Location of Body: lying behind bushes on back

Lividity: Yes _____ No ☒ Consistent _____ Body Heat: Warm: _____ Cool ☒ Cold _____

Rigor Mortis: None ☒ Slight _____ Full _____ Decomposition: None ☒ Slight _____ Advanced _____

Trauma: Yes _____ No ☒ Describe _____

NAMES OF DOCTORS/HOSPITALS who attended deceased during life: Imdt*
X 038 8524 - Reg. 10/1/87

NAME OF NEXT OF KIN: Unknown Relation _____

Address _____ Telephone _____ Notified: Yes _____ No _____

Valuables and Disposition None Medication to M.E.: Yes _____ No ☒

Investigating Agency MDD Report Submitted by Sgt S. Vinson Date: 2005 87 745A

M.E. Case No. 87-2633

as that of Edith Rozier on October 2, 1987 at 4:40 p.m.
Mon Day Yr.

Willie B. King

20615 N.W.38th Avenue / Carol City, Fla.
620-8053

Relationship friend - of seven years

Fla. driver's lic. # K520-882-61-332

118.01-9 Rev. 7/84

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
1050 N.W. 19 St., Miami, FL 33136
(305) 549-7337

CASE INFORMATION

DATE 10/2/87
mo. day yr.

3:30 PM
time

M.E. Case #

Called:
Lennie Rozier, mother -
620-9721

- spoke to niece of dec'd - minor
- advised of death -
Mrs. Rozier is not @ home - niece will
have her call.

DMK

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
1050 N.W. 19 St., Miami, FL 33136
(305) 549-7337

CASE INFORMATION

DATE 10 2 87
mo. day yr.

9:01
time

87-2633
M.E. Case #

Bozler, Edith

CDD } Pending Toxicology
MDD }

[Signature]
10/2/87

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
1050 N.W. 19 St., Miami, FL 33136
(305) 549-7337

CASE INFORMATION

DATE mo. day yr.

 time

87-2633
M.E. Case #

TELEPHONE MESSAGE

NO 000620

DATE CALL RECEIVED

11-19-87 10:05 AM

WHO CALLED

Minnie King
Sister

FIRM

CITY, STATE

PHONE

620-9721

AREA CODE

☒ RETURN CALL, DATE, TIME

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN, DATE, TIME

CALL TAKEN BY

Betty

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
1050 N.W. 19th STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136

MESSAGE
FOR

CVW

MESSAGE

87-2633- Royer
Unclassified Case

(ask for Annie Royer or Milton)

DAY-TIMERS RE-ORDER No. 3214 - Printed in USA

Put'd call - gone over
told D. C. should be
ready next week.

11/19/87
4:15 PM

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
1050 N.W. 19 St., Miami, FL 33136
(305) 549-7337

CASE INFORMATION

DATE 10/8/87
mo. day yr.

time

87-2633
M.E. Case #

TELEPHONE MESSAGE

No 000370

DATE CALL RECEIVED

TIME

10-8-87 11:25 AM

WHO CALLED

Angela Youngblood

FIRM

Personal

CITY, STATE

PHONE

AREA CODE

594-5666

☒ RETURN CALL, DATE, TIME

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN, DATE, TIME

CALL TAKEN BY

cm

MEDICAL EXAMINERS DEPARTMENT
1050 NW 19th STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136

MESSAGE
FOR

CVW

MESSAGE

re: Erick Rongier
87-2633

Any info. on Death

DAY-TIMERS RE-ORDER No. 3214 — Printed in USA

To should be completed next week
no for ETOH = 0.11%

CW 10/8.

CA - Please call alone. Time -
10/9/87 1:45 pm
2/12/87
cm

M.E. CASE # 87-2633
MEDICAL EXAMINER Liseth

DECEDENT'S NAME: Edith Rozier
AGE RACE N SEX F TYPE OF CASE UNKNOWN
POLICE AGENCY: YPD POLICE CASE # 275-1150 L

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all the property impounded by me in the official performance of my duty as a Medical Examiner, District 11.

DATE / TIME OBTAINED: 18 2 87 9 AM / PM.

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all property received by/from the Medical Examiner Department.

M.E. Courier: Pollyann Moss Pollyann Moss
 Print Sign
 DATE / TIME OBTAINED: _____ AM./PM.
 Receiving Party: ^MCora Walker ^DCora Walker ^YCora Walker
 Print Sign Agency

Date & Time Released: _____ AM./PM.
MO. DAY YR. TIME

RECEIVED BY	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

PROPERTY RECEIPT

OFFICER'S COPY
PROPERTY UNITRUN DATE 10/07/87RECEIPT NUMBER 071950DATE ENTERED 10/07/87 CASE NUMBER 2751150L NUMBER PACKAGES 1OFFICER I.D. 7270 VINSON STEVE PERSON CRIME HOMICIDE
LAST FIRST SECTION UNIT DETAILOFFENSE 01 HOMICIDELOCATION 3350 NW 7 AVE.

ITEM	EF	QUANTITY	UNITS	CATEGORY	BRAND	MODEL	COLOR	STATUS	STORED
01	E	1.00	EA	CLOTHE					
SEALED PAPER W/ 1 PR SHOES, SHIRT, SHORTS, # UNDERWEAR, TOWEL									

Received the above article Address Date Time

Received the above article Address Date Time

Received the above article Address Date Time

Received the above article Address Date Time

Received the above article Address Date Time

OUT TO:		RECEIVED BY: (NAME, IBM)		DATE:	TIME:
ITEM NO.	WEIGHT OUT:	NUMBER AND TYPE OF PACKAGES:		CLERK:	IBM:
RETURNED BY: (NAME, IBM)				DATE:	TIME:
ITEM NO.	WEIGHT IN:	NUMBER AND TYPE OF PACKAGES:		CLERK:	IBM:

OFFICER Super Puller and Mass PROPERTY SPECIALIST Wilke C.DEFENDANT In v. OWNER

OWNERS ADDRESS

RETURN TO OWNER SIGNATURE CONFISCATE SIGNATURE DATE

REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

OFFICER'S COPY

PROPERTY RECEIPT

PROPERTY UNIT

RUN DATE 10/22/87

'87 OCT 22

RECEIPT NUMBER C72997DATE ENTERED 10/22/87 CASE NUMBER 2751150L NUMBER PACKAGES 1OFFICER I.D. 7270 VINSON STEVE PERSON CRIME HOMICIDE
LAST FIRST SECTION UNIT DETAILOFFENSE 01 HOMICIDELOCATION 3350 NW 7 AVE.

ITEM	EFP	QUANTITY	UNITS	CATEGORY	BRAND	MODEL	COLOR	STATUS	STORED
01	E	1.00	EA	M3MISC				0	R
SEALED PAPER BAG W/ SEALED RAPE KIT									

Received the above article	Address	Date	Time
Received the above article	Address	Date	Time
Received the above article	Address	Date	Time
Received the above article	Address	Date	Time
Received the above article	Address	Date	Time

OUT TO:		RECEIVED BY: (NAME, IBM)		DATE:	TIME:
ITEM NO.	WEIGHT OUT:	NUMBER AND TYPE OF PACKAGES:		CLERK:	IBM:
RETURNED BY: (NAME, IBM)				DATE:	TIME:
ITEM NO.	WEIGHT IN:	NUMBER AND TYPE OF PACKAGES:		CLERK:	IBM:

Courier
OFFICER Pally Ann Mass PROPERTY SPECIALIST Walker C

DEFENDANT Inv OWNER

OWNERS ADDRESS

RETURN TO OWNER CONFISCATE DATE

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

REMARKS

POITIER FUNERAL HOME, INC.

**2300 NORTHWEST 62ND STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33147
(305) 638-5030 OR 638-5031**

**BERNARD C. POITIER, SR. - ALFONSO M. RICHARDSON, SR.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

AUTHORIZATION

M.E.

I hereby designate the above-named funeral establishment to take charge of funeral arrangements for: *Edith Rozier*, and I authorize the release and removal of the remains to said funeral establishment for the purpose of embalming and/or other scientific preparation.

I represent that I am the next of kin, or am acting as a duly authorized agent for the next of kin.

Signed: *WILTON ROZIER*

Relationship: *FATHER*

Co-Signed: *Annie R. King*

Relationship: *SISTER*

WITNESS:

DATE:

J.C. McKinn *10-2-87*

FOR VERBAL (TELEPHONE) AUTHORIZATION:

Authorization from _____

Relationship _____

Date _____ Time _____ Received by _____

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
MIAMI, FLORIDA

DECEASED'S VALUABLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY RECORD

NAME OF DECEASED Rozier, Edith M.E. CASE NO. 87-2633
TIME 7:00 am DATE 2 Oct 87
AGE _____ RACE B SEX F HEIGHT 5'7"
WEIGHT (with clothes) 120 (without clothes) _____ (with wet clothes) _____
FINGERPRINTED: YES NO _____
MALE CLOTHES FEMALE
SHOES _____ SOCKS _____ SHOES ☒ STOCKINGS _____ SOCKS _____
JACKET _____ SWEATER _____ COAT _____ SWEATER _____ JACKET _____
TIE _____ SHIRT _____ DRESS _____ BLOUSE ☒ SKIRT _____
TROUSERS _____ SHORTS _____ BELT _____ SHORTS ☒ SLACKS _____
UNDERSHIRT _____ T SHIRT _____ UNDERSHORTS _____ SLIP _____ PANTIES ☒ CORSET _____ BRA _____
PAJAMAS _____ PAJAMAS _____ GOWN _____
DENTURES: U. _____ L. _____ TRUSS _____ DENTURES: U. _____ L. _____
MISCELLANEOUS _____ MISCELLANEOUS Towel, beer can

VALUABLES

(List all money, jewelry, keys, personal papers & other valuables)

None

RECEIVED BY Debra Benning MORGUE ATTENDANT WITNESS Med Z. [Signature]
REMOVED FROM M.E. OFFICE BY _____
BODY Benton REPRESENTING Poitier DATE 10/3/87 TIME 7:45 P
CLOTHES Benton REPRESENTING Poitier DATE 10/3/87 TIME 7:45 P
VALUABLES _____ REPRESENTING _____ DATE _____ TIME _____

JEB

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
PHONE (305) 545-2400 FAX (305) 545-2418**

INVESTIGATION REPORT

M.E. Case #: 87-2633

DATE: OCT/02/1987

TYPE: A

ROZIER, EDITH (AKA)

SS#:

28 YEAR(S)

BLACK

FEMALE

D.O.B. MAR/13/1959

744 N W 36TH STREET, MIAMI, FLA

PLACE OF DEATH: FIELD: N W 7TH AVE AND 31ST ST., MIAMI, FLA

TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 3:30AM OCT/02/1987

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: CITY OF MIAMI 2751150-L-

INCIDENT LOCATION: 3350 N W 7TH AVE., MIAMI,FLA

OCT/02/1987

WETLI, CHARLES V., M.D.

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CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER -6/19/89-DJM.**

MANNER: HOMICIDE

AUTOPSY

OCT/02/1987

DOCTOR: WETLI, CHARLES V., M.D.

MORTUARY: POITIER

INVESTIGATOR: WETLI, CHARLES V., M.D.

**THIS REPORT MAY CONTAIN NON-VERIFIED INFORMATION
AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY
M E D I C A L E X A M I N E R D E P A R T M E N T
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DATE OCT/02/87

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744 N W 36TH STREET, MIAMI, FLA

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TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 3:30AM OCT/02/87

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: MIAMI #2751150-L-VINSON

INCIDENT LOCATION: 3350 N W 7TH AVE., MIAMI, FLA
OCT/02/87 AM SCENE M.E. CHARLES V. WETLI MD

HISTORY:

CVW

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Homicide by Inspected means
CAUSE OF DEATH: ~~COCAINE INTOXICATION~~. REFILED: 11/23/87-DJM.

Homicide
MANNER: ~~ACCIDENT~~ DATE AUTOPSY OCT/02/87 BY CHARLES V. WETLI MD
MORTUARY: POITIER

CVW

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name.ROZIER, Edith.....Oct.2,1987.....8:10 a.m....Case No. 87-2633

CAUSE OF DEATH:

Cocaine Intoxication

*See
summary
of H. Davis*


CHARLES V. WETLI, M.D.

Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

Date: 11/24/87

CVW:mu


METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
1050 N.W. 19th Street, Miami, Florida 33136

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

ROZIER , EDITH

M.E. CASE NO. 87-2633

<u>SUBSTANCE</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
ETHANOL	HEART BLOOD	0.11%
ETHANOL	OCULAR FLUID	0.12%
COCAINE	BLADDER WASHINGS	DETECTED
COCAINE METABOLITES	BLADDER WASHINGS	DETECTED
COCAINE	NASAL SWABS	DETECTED
COCAINE	HEART BLOOD	0.38 mg/L


Charles V. Wetli, M.D.
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

DATE

11/9/77



THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name.ROZIER, Edith.....Oct.2,1987.....8:10 a.m....Case No. 87-2633

IDENTIFICATION:

The body is identified on October 2, 1987, at 4:40 p.m., by Willie B. King, 20615 N.W. 38 Avenue, Carol City, Fl., a friend, telephone 620-8053.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The body is that of a 5 foot 7 inch, 120 pound, Negro female appearing in her 30's. The scalp is atraumatic and covered with short cropped hair with patchy alopecia. No injuries are observed. The bulbar and palpebral conjunctivae are clear. The upper front teeth are absent. The lower teeth are unremarkable. On the right side of the lower lip along the lower surface are two small abrasions averaging 1/8 inch in diameter. The neck is free of any scratches or other marks. Numerous scars are scattered over the body most prominent being on the dorsolateral aspect of the left arm and also a prominent hypertrophic scar on the radial aspect of the left forearm. Also, prominent scars are on the abdomen, particularly on the midline of the upper portion of the abdomen and an oblique scar on the right upper quadrant of the abdomen. A large amount of fecal smearing is evident around the anal area.

Blood stains portions of the perineum and speculum examination of the vagina and cervix however fails to disclose any abnormalities. The blood appears to be of menstrual origin. The anal area is free of any injuries. Specimens for serologic examination are taken between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The pleural, pericardial, and peritoneal cavities are free of excessive fluid. Scattered fibrous adhesions are in the right side of the chest and the anterior portion of the abdomen as well as between the liver and diaphragm.

The 275 gram heart has a normal amount of subepicardial fat and a right predominant coronary arterial distribution and is entirely free of arteriosclerosis. The right coronary artery, however, is diminutive and the left coronary artery extends posteriorly over the left ventricular free wall. Sectioning the heart discloses a firm dark brown homogeneous myocardium with no abnormalities. The heart valves and coronary orifices are unremarkable. The aorta is unremarkable. The pulmonary trunk appears distended upon visualization in situ. No thrombi or emboli are detected anywhere within the body.

Serial sectioning the tongue fails to disclose any contusions, bite marks, or other abnormalities. The larynx, trachea, and mainstem bronchi are unremarkable externally and

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name.ROZIER, Edith.....Oct.2,1987.....8:10 a.m....Case No. 87-2633

along their mucosal surfaces except for a few minor hemorrhagic foci in the soft tissues of the neck, particularly on the right side. The hyoid bone and thyroid cartilage, however, are intact and the soft tissues surrounding these areas are not hemorrhagic.

The right and left lungs are 405 grams and 350 grams, respectively. They are partially collapsed, dusky blue-purple, with extensive anthracotic mottling. Sectioning discloses edema and congestion but no other abnormalities.

The esophagus, stomach, and intestines are unremarkable externally and along their mucosal surfaces. The stomach is empty.

The 1480 gram liver has a sharp anterior edge and an irregular capsule due to the numerous hepatophrenic adhesions. Sectioning discloses a firm, brown, homogeneous cut surface that bulges slightly above the plane of sectioning. The gallbladder is unremarkable and contains an estimated 20 milliliters of dark green bile. Lymph nodes around the porta hepatis are unremarkable.

The 90 gram spleen is intact, has a blue-gray capsule and a firm dark red cut surface without any visible lymphoid follicles.

The right and left kidneys are 120 grams and 160 grams, respectively. They are smooth and dark brown except for a few pitted scars. Cut surfaces are unremarkable. The ureters and urinary bladder are unremarkable and the urinary bladder is empty.

The ovaries and fallopian tubes on both sides have numerous dense adhesions. The myometrium is unremarkable and the uterine cavity is focally hemorrhagic and the endometrium is thinned.

Sectioning the adrenal glands, pancreas, and thyroid gland fails to disclose any abnormalities.

Reflecting the scalp fails to disclose any abnormalities. The calvarium, however, is thickened up to approximately a full centimeter in most areas. The 1060 gram brain has widening of the gyri and narrowing of the sulci and flattening of the gyri, as well. Sectioning the brain fails to disclose any abnormalities except for moderate compression of the ventricular system. Stripping the dura from the skull and calvarium discloses a yellow mottling to the bones but no other abnormalities. The sphenoid sinus is unremarkable.

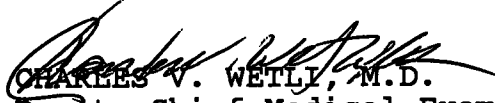
AUTOPSY FINDINGS:

- 1) Pulmonary edema and congestion

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name.ROZIER, Edith.....Oct.2,1987.....8:10 a.m....Case No. 87-2633

2) Small abrasions of lower lobe on the right side


CHARLES V. WETLI, M.D.
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

CVW:mu

CASE NUMBER 87-2633

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Edith Rozier

DADE COUNTY
1050 N.W. 19th Street
Miami, Florida 33136

CASE INFORMATION

Microscopic -

Heart - myocardial fiber hypertrophy.

Spleen - normal.

Uterus - unremarkable.

Lungs - edema + congestion.

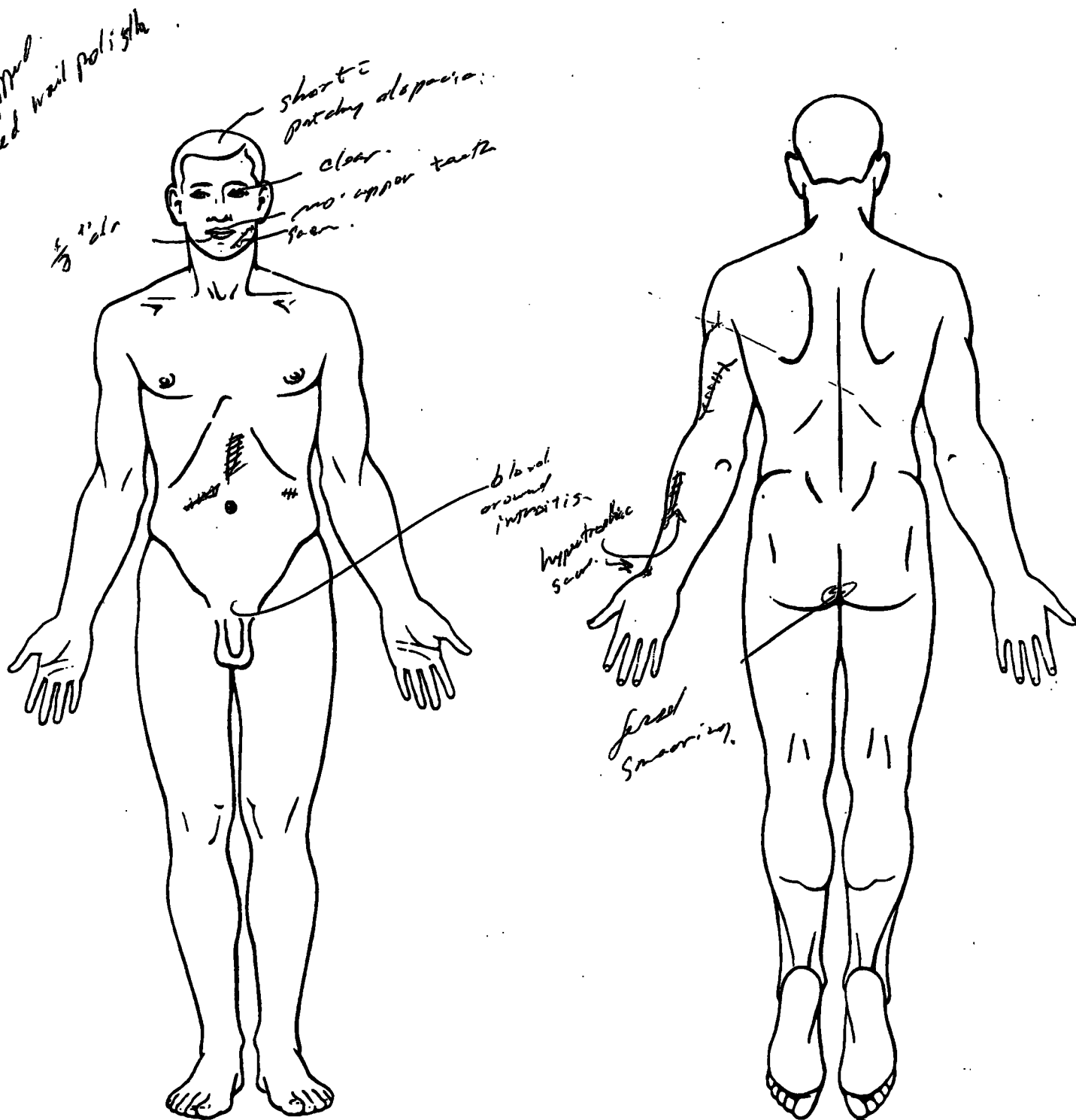
Liver - unremarkable.

[Signature]
10-15-82

Include Date, Time and Source of Each Entry

CASE NO. 87-2633 NAME Edith Rozier

AGE RACE N SEX F HEIGHT 5'7" WEIGHT 120 lb.



FORM A

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT

CLASSIFICATION OF PENDING CASE

(THIS FORM IS TO BE USED BY A MEDICAL EXAMINER WHEN A PENDING CASE IS TO BE CLASSIFIED. MAKE CERTAIN THAT THERE IS AN APPROVAL BY EITHER THE CHIEF OR DEPUTY CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER BEFORE COMPLETING THE NECESSARY FORMS AND CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY THE STATE.)

M.E. Case # 87-2633

Name (if known) Rozier, Edith

Cause of Death:
(Item 24)

Homicide by unspecified means

Due to:

Due to:

Contributory Cause:

Manner of Death:
(Item 27a)

Homicide October 2, 1987 A.M.

How Incident Occurred:
(Item 27d)

Found dead shortly after being with a suspect

Rationale for Classification:

1. A husband female
2. Nudity
3. Sex
4. minor hemorrhages in soft tissue of neck - right
5. pattern fitting epidermological study
6. cocaine . 35 range of other cases

Medical Examiner

M - D - Y
Date

Approved by _____

6/18/89
M - D - Y
Date

CASE REVIEW
J. H. DAVIS, M.D.

NAME : Rozier, Edith ME No.: 87-2633
Age/Race: 28 B Police: Miami
Date Found: 10/2/87 Police No.: 27511506 Vinson
Coordinates: NW 7 Ave. 31 St.
Site Character: Open area, bushes
Position: Supine legs spread
Clothing/Cover: Nude except for bloom
Preservation Status: good (seen c/o found dead
short time later)
Photos Eyes: Yes one (left)
" Lips: Yes small red spot lower lip (Too small for
SOWI 82014)
" Ext. Neck: Yes Rt. side (Tongue Reg)
" Int. Neck: No But "minor hemorrhage" fori-soft tissue - right
Cocaine Blood: .38 Hunt blood
" Other: None +
Alcohol: 011 .12 ounces
Other Drug:

EVIDENCE FOR
HOMICIDE

Abandoned - Seen c/o Man shortly before
Nude Q
Scp
Cocaine + alcohol

ACCIDENT

Unusual cocaine reaction
but does not resemble
cocaine seizure or psychosis

Done kit?
stains?

Master List - Study of 19 Cases

Already Classified as Homicide

- 1 88-3093 Black, B.
- 2 89-243 Spivey, A
- 3 89-906 Williams, A
- 4 89-997 Hernandez, B

Well preserved - not decomposed bodies

- 1 87-2000 Samuels, W
- 2 87-2017 Taylor, M
- 3 87-2633 Rozier, E
- 4 88-1055 Gray, S
- 5 88-3075 Edwards, E
- 6 88-3119 Lattimore, D
- 7 88-3575 Burns, A
- 8 89-323 Stewart, K
- 9 89-981 Gooden, P

Decomposed or insect altered bodies - including skeletons

- 1 88-2512 Turner, T
- 2 88-2596 Henderson, J
- 3 88-2637 Johnson, L
- 4 88-3118 Rille, R
- 5 89-346 Harris, V
- 6 89-583 Bodie, C

Convicted rapist linked to 19th slaying

WILLIAMS, FROM 1B

Tony Rodriguez, Miami homicide detective.

Like many of the 18 other victims, Jackson was found nude and asphyxiated in Northwest Dade, lying on her back with her legs spread.

Homicide detectives believe Williams, a baby-faced former maintenance worker, may be responsible for the 19 slayings — and perhaps more — because the methods of murder are strikingly similar.

"We've never had this many that seemed to fall into a pattern," said Dr. Joseph Davis, Dade's medical examiner.

Williams, 33, has been in the Dade County Jail for the past six months, but has not been charged in any of the murders. He was charged with two counts of rape unrelated to the slayings. Metro and Miami homicide detectives say they don't have enough proof — even though he first murder came under investigation more than a year ago.

Williams has admitted to police that he knew some of the victims, but he has steadfastly denied killing anyone.

The slayings stopped once Williams was jailed in early April on the rape charges.

The first of the 19 victims — 18 of them black and one Hispanic — was found dead in July 1987.

Jackson was victim No. 15. The bodies of four other women were found before Williams was arrested in early April. Miami police did not disclose Jackson's connection to Williams and the other homicide victims until detectives recently gave depositions in court.

Jackson, a former cook in a sandwich shop, went by the name Sonia because she hated her given name. "She was my sweet baby," said her boyfriend Kirk Stevens, the father of her 2-year-old son, also named Kirk.

Like many of the other 18 victims, Jackson was a drug addict "doing tricks for crack," her family told investigators.

Just before her murder, she was desperately trying to break her

crack habit, said Vincent Lawrence, a distant relative who unsuccessfully tried to find a rehabilitation program for her. "I couldn't find anything free for her," he said.

On March 24, a man working in his yard found Jackson's strangled body next door in an overgrown lot in the Brownsville neighborhood. A brown coat covered her nude body. Her shoes were found nearby.

In the next 11 days, four more bodies of women were found. Two of them had been badly beaten and strangled, as Jackson was.

On March 26, the body of Angela Williams, 23, was found in an open field at Northwest 21st Avenue and 68th Street. The killer had beaten her face, breaking her jaw and teeth.

A week later, in another vacant lot at Northwest 23rd Avenue and 46th Street, children found the body of Brenda Hernandez, 24, whose chest and neck were battered like Jackson's.

Williams was picked up near the Hernandez murder site by homicide detectives a day after the body was found.

As in Jackson's case, witnesses saw Williams with Hernandez on the last day of her life.

Jailers later found scratches on Williams' back and fresh bite marks on his penis.

Metro homicide detective Joseph McMahon said Williams readily talked to homicide detectives.

Investigators said Williams told them he had been with some of the victims — but they were alive when he left them.

He said people in the neighborhood who say he is the murderer are picking on him. They didn't like him, Williams complained.

From canvassing Brownsville after the murders, police found at least two women who said they had survived attacks by Williams. The investigators and the alleged victims described the attacks in recent depositions.

One, an admitted prostitute, told McMahon that she had been raped and choked to unconsciousness in March by a man known on the streets as "Bumper" or "Bump."

McMahon showed her a Polaroid of Williams.

That's him, she said.

She said she hadn't gone to police sooner because she didn't think officers "give a damn about street hookers or prostitutes," McMahon said in a deposition.

The second victim said she was raped by Williams in the Brownsville neighborhood on March 18, six days before Jackson's body was found.

"She said at first he had grabbed her in a choke hold, putting his arm around her neck," Miami homicide detective Frank Castillo said in a deposition. "She said that he had her under control. She couldn't get away from him. The harder she would try to push away, the tighter the choke would get around her neck."

The two women pressed rape charges against Williams. He is scheduled to go to trial Nov. 13. But the trial is likely to be postponed for a third time. Prosecutor Dennis Siegel is planning to be out of the state that week to attend a seminar.

Meanwhile, police remain close-mouthed about the homicide investigation.

Williams' defense attorney, Howard Landau, believes homicide in-

vestigators are now conducting genetic DNA tests to see if they can trace back to Williams any body fluids found on the victims. The tests are usually done to connect rapists to their victims, usually through semen.

Despite Landau's objections, the Dade state attorney's office recently obtained a court order to take blood and saliva samples from Williams.

Miami homicide detective Rodriguez wouldn't talk about the genetic tests. "We're following up every avenue that's available to us that can assist us in these investigations," he said.

Rodriguez and John Farrell, Metro chief of detectives, said officers have pursued dozens of leads without the breakthrough they were counting on.

"Unfortunately, we haven't been able to put together anything of significance," Rodriguez said. "It's just a shame. It's a tragedy. I really feel that somebody out there saw or heard something that could help us solve at least one of these cases."

"Serial killers don't stop killing," he said. "They either get arrested, they die or they move somewhere and continue."

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

Rapist questioned in 17 deaths

Tuesday, May 16, 1989 / The Miami Herald 3B

Rapist is suspect in deaths case

SUSPECT / from 1B

found near where 24-year-old Brenda Hernandez was killed with a blunt object at Northwest 46th Street and 23rd Avenue.

Police took him into custody after he gave "false information" about his name and was found to be carrying a crack pipe in his pocket, they said.

Within a few hours of his arrest, Williams also was charged with the March rape and robbery of a prostitute. Another victim later identified the convict in a photo lineup as the man who a month earlier pinned her in a choke hold and then dragged her to an open field where he raped her.

Williams is being arraigned in those two rape cases this morning. He is being held without bail at the Dade County Stockade.

Meanwhile, Metro and Miami police are investigating Williams' possible role in the 17 deaths that began in 1986. Almost all of the victims were found lying on their backs, partially nude and in open fields or abandoned houses. Their blood showed traces of cocaine, and crack paraphernalia was found nearby.

say."

Records show Williams served only four months of that sentence in the stockade. He was released in time for Christmas 1986.

Five months later, he was in trouble again.

Miami police arrested him in May 1987 after a woman reported she had been beaten on her legs, face and neck in an attack at Northwest First Court and 14th Street. She described her assailant, and police found Williams in the area.

However, the aggravated battery charge was lessened to a misdemeanor.

In the same area a day later, another woman said Williams attacked her. The Miami police report said Williams "had his hand on her neck and was choking her while the victim was trying to get away."

The attacker ended up stealing \$25 from the victim.

Williams was arrested, but those charges were later dropped.

He was out on the streets in time to be accused of a mid-May attack in 1988.

Choke hold used

building at 217 NW 8th St.

Police have never been able to find the man.

Witnesses were too high on drugs or alcohol to identify him, Watterson said.

Williams is suspected because he lived in the neighborhood at 921 NW Seventh Ave., the sergeant said.

Although an autopsy revealed bruises around her neck, medical examiners weren't able to detect trauma that would lead to Spires' death, Watterson said.

"There's no physical evidence," he said.

Today, Williams will be in court facing charges based on the com-

plaints of two women who told police Williams raped them in much the same way: He grabbed them from behind, choked them until they were unconscious and raped them in vacant areas.

Then he threatened to kill them if they told police.

Both identified Williams from photo lineups.

Prosecutor Dennis Siegel said Williams faces life in prison if convicted as charged of sexual battery with great force.

Three days before Williams was arrested and jailed without bail, the body of Peggy Gooden, the 17th woman to die mysteriously, was found at 9641 NW 27th Ave.

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
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(305) 545-2400

CASE INFORMATION

DATE _____
mo. day yr.

time _____

M.E. Case # _____

Miami homicide Sgt. Thomas Watterson also noted that Williams could not have killed all the women because he was in jail when some of the 17 died.

Williams was profiled in 1986 in The Herald as a career criminal who knew how to beat the system. Although at that time he had been accused of rape by seven women and had been treated as a "mentally disordered sex offender" for a 1977 conviction, the rest of his cases had ended in acquittals or charges had been dropped or reduced.

The alleged victims of Charles Henry Williams tell much the same story: The tall, baby-faced man begins with smiles and small talk, then suddenly turns vicious, chokes them and rapes them, according to the profile published Aug. 27, 1986.

"Each time Williams has been arrested," the story continued, "the 30-year-old bus mechanic with a soft voice and gentle manner offers the same explanation he will bring to court today: 'There was no rape. I'm going to beat this.'"

The day after the article, Williams plea-bargained on a sexual assault case to receive a 364-day jail sentence.

"He's very much a professional," said a Miami police detective who investigated one of the cases never prosecuted said in 1986. "He knows how to manipulate it. He knows what he can say and what he can't

Attacker scared off

A friend of the victim scared the man off. The victim later told police she thinks she would have been killed if her friend had not been there.

Within a few hours, just three blocks away, prostitute Erica Edwards, 24, died — one of the 17 unexplained deaths.

Her body, naked above the waist, was found in a vacant field at Northwest 79th Street and Eighth Court. There were no signs of violence on her body.

Three other women died mysteriously in the area before Williams was arrested Oct. 28.

● Barbara Ann Black, 25, was found Oct. 24 in a front yard at 7310 NW 18th Ave.

● Barbara Lattimore was found at 2700 NW 87th St. Oct. 27.

● Robin Renée Rolle, 29, was discovered in an open field at Northwest 79th Street and 14th Court.

Metro police would not talk about any of these cases.

But Miami's Sgt. Watterson said Williams was a "good suspect" in the death of Anita Spires, who died Jan. 22.

Watterson said Spires' body was found after police raided an abandoned building for gambling and drugs. Spires was found dead five minutes after police noticed she was having sex with a man outside of the

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M.E. Case # _____

Authorities still have not ruled out that many of the 17 women may have died from a combination of highs from sex and crack cocaine — although Medical Examiner Joseph Davis said last week that the pattern of the women's deaths indicates homicide.

Sex offenders studied

Police have been scanning records to find convicted sexual offenders who raped in the inner city. Williams fits that description.

A Metro homicide sergeant recently theorized that the women may have suffocated from a penis forced down their mouths.

Forensic dentist Dr. Richard Souviron confirmed he had examined Williams' sexual organs about three weeks ago for bite marks and is trying to determine if there is any evidence that links him to the 17 deaths. Souviron and other medical examiners are also looking for signs of trauma or other traces that could determine if the women were slain.

Williams told Dade Stockade Lt. William Smith last Friday that he had been questioned about the deaths.

"He was worried about getting hurt if other inmates found out about it," Smith said.

The lieutenant said he could not allow a reporter to interview Williams until a public defender is appointed to represent him. The public defender's office said Williams should be assigned an attorney to day at the arraignment.

Metro detectives chief John Farrell, who has helped direct the investigation into the 17 women's deaths, was out of town and could not be reached for comment Monday. But he cautioned late last week that investigators were looking at several suspects and that his agency had no major suspect.

Tonya Folsom, a neighbor of Williams, said he grabbed her in a choke hold and dragged her to a bathroom where he cut her throat with a knife.

As in other cases where Williams had been accused of violence against women, he had been friendly, even offering Folsom some crack cocaine, she said in a deposition.

They smoked it in her boyfriend's upstairs apartment while he was at work and her baby was asleep in another room.

Williams left, but returned shortly afterward.

"I was like surprised to see him," Folsom said in the deposition.

"He grabbed me around the neck. From behind. I blanked out. The only thing I remember ... I was trying to pull his arms but I couldn't."

The next thing she knew she was on the bathroom floor. "I saw the shadow of the knife," she testified in the deposition. "I remember him hitting me. I felt when he cut my throat. I jumped straight up."

Another man heard the sounds and scared the attacker off. Police later arrested Williams on attempted second-degree murder charges, but those charges were dropped.

So were charges brought against him last October by a woman who said he tried to kill her.

The police report said the victim was walking west on Northwest 80th Street from Seventh Avenue early Oct. 22 when she heard a male voice say, "Hey, lady, come over here."

As she continued to walk, she heard footsteps behind her. When the victim turned around to see who was behind her, the defendant grabbed the victim from behind, placing her in a choke hold," the report said. "The defendant choked the victim until she was unconscious and then dragged her to nearby bushes."

Cops: Rapist top suspect in murders

But no charges filed in 19 deaths

By **DONNA GEHRKE**
Herald Staff Writer

For the first time, Metro-Dade police confirmed Monday that convicted rapist Charles Henry Williams is the main suspect in some of the 19 inner-city murders of Dade women.

However, police still do not have enough evidence to charge Williams with any murders. "We've exhausted all leads," Homicide Bureau Cmdr. Wayne McCarthy said.

"It's not like anyone has left a calling card or footprint or anything like that," he added. "We're making every effort we can."

McCarthy said his investigators are looking at two other suspects. One is suspected of killing the first victim, Tammie Turner, who died in September 1986 while Williams was in jail. The other is a convicted sex offender, but McCarthy said his investigators are not investigating him as intensely as they are Wil-



CHARLES WILLIAMS: Police link him to some of 19 deaths.

liams. He would not disclose those suspects' names.

Investigators have said privately that Williams, 32, is their suspect for all the slayings but Turner's.

McCarthy said Williams "is a main suspect in some of them," adding he could speak only about the 11 cases his agency is investigating. Hialeah and Miami police detectives in charge of the others could not be reached for comment after McCarthy's

PLEASE SEE SUSPECT, 2B

Miami Herald
June 20, 1989

DATE
mo. day yr

Cops suspect rapist, lack evidence

SUSPECT, FROM 1B

thy's afternoon press conference.

McCarthy said witnesses have linked Williams with four of Metro's victims.

"He knew them or he dated them," McCarthy said. "Or he did drugs with them."

Family and witnesses have also tied Williams to the Miami homicide of Sharmanita Grays, 16, a neighbor of Williams in Overtown.

Since Williams was jailed in early April on two unrelated rape charges, no woman has been found dead like the other victims.

Williams has denied involvement in any of the deaths.

McCarthy said police have not ruled out that some of the victims died accidentally. But he acknowledged that the theory the women died from a lethal combination of sex and cocaine — which has been rejected by Dade Medical Examiner Joseph Davis — is "on the back burner."

burner."

Davis said Monday it is only a matter of paper work before his office classifies all the women's deaths as homicides. Some of the deaths had remained unclassified for months before Davis led his own investigation and concluded all 19 victims were murdered.

In some cases, the women had been clearly asphyxiated, he said. "You could stand 10 feet away, it's that clear," he added. In others, the bodies were so decomposed that medical examiners couldn't determine an exact cause of death.

McCarthy said his office is waiting for a written report from the FBI's Behavioral Profile Bureau in Quantico, Va., which will take weeks to complete.

After a preliminary analysis, the bureau told local investigators that the 18 deaths, excluding Turner's, appear to be similar and committed by one person.

CASE INFORMATION

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
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M.E. Case #



C.W. GRIFFIN / Miami Herald Staff

LOST THEIR MOTHER: One victim was Barbara Lattimore, who left daughters Shantavia, 3, left, and Shadedra, 6. Now their grandmother is trying to raise them on a meager income.

18 killings leave families struggling with uncertainty

By **DONNA GEHRKE**
Herald Staff Writer

Fourteen-year-old Antoinette Burns jogged, earned a white belt in karate and went to movies.

Sharmanita Grays, 16, went out for cheerleading in junior high but later dropped out of school.

Barbara Lattimore, 22, had two young daughters and tried to care for them, despite her crack habit.

About the only thing the three had in common was murder.

They are among the 18 young Dade women who the FBI believes were slain by a serial killer who hated women.

After a preliminary analysis, the FBI's Behavioral Profile Bureau in Quantico, Va., has told local investi-

gators that the deaths appear to be similar and conducted by one person.

"No one wants to scare people, but we could have a serial killer," said Metro homicide Sgt. Frank Wesolowski, who heads the county's investigation.

Since main suspect Charles Henry Williams — a convicted rapist — was jailed in early April on two unrelated rape charges, no woman has been found dead like the other victims. Investigators say they do not have enough proof to charge him with even one homicide.

"We're still investigating everything," said Miami homicide detective Tony Rodriguez, who is in charge

PLEASE SEE MURDERS, 5B

Homicide victims' families left in limbo

MURDERS, FROM 1B

of the Miami operation. Williams has denied any involvement in the deaths. His lawyer, assistant public defender Steven Potolsky, also said he couldn't talk about the investigation.

Late last month, Dade Medical Examiner Joseph Davis re-examined autopsy reports and photographs of 19 women's bodies and concluded someone had applied pressure to the necks or mouths of many of the victims. He is reclassifying the deaths to homicide — if they hadn't been already.

Police do not believe one of those victims is linked with the 18 others. The September 1986 death of Tammie Turner offers few clues since her body was found decomposed. But investigators said the death scene appears slightly different from the rest. Also, Williams was in jail at the time of her death.

The 18 other victims, all black except for one Hispanic, have been found dead since July 1987 with their skirts pulled up or their pants pulled down. Almost all had their legs spread apart. All were found between downtown Miami and Northwest 102nd Street, except for one found in Hialeah.

Medical examiners still aren't sure exactly how the women died.

The uncertainty has added more agony for many of the victims' families.

The family of Sharmanita Grays had to wait more than a year before Davis reversed an assistant's decision that the teen-ager died from a dose of sex and cocaine.

When Sharmanita was found dead in April 1988, her family told Miami police they suspected murder. A sister, Harriette Grays, said they even had a suspect — Charles Henry Williams.



C.W. GRIFFIN / Miami Herald Staff

WAITING FOR ANSWERS: Lorean Rahming, mother of victim Antoinette Burns, can't file an insurance claim without a completed death certificate.

Sharmanita had been with Williams, a neighbor, the night she died at a Biscayne Boulevard motel. Two witnesses, a motel clerk and the 16-year-old's best friend, backed up the family's story.

"The police never did anything. They never came back," Harriette Grays said. "They act like they don't care. They don't tell my mama anything."

Detective Rodriguez said he could not discuss individual cases, but he defended the city investigations as thorough and aggressive.

Harriette said her family saw Williams roam freely throughout the

neighborhood after Sharmanita's death.

"He used to walk around here. I couldn't take it. I just left," she said. Sharmanita was her favorite sister.

She had been a junior high cheerleader who dropped out of school when she joined in with the wrong bunch of girls, Harriette Grays said.

"She was shaped nice, she jumped the best of the cheerleaders, she was a great dancer. She was a pretty black girl. A lot of people liked her," her sister remembered.

The family of victim Barbara "Rabbit" Lattimore also have suffered from waiting.



YOUNGEST VICTIM: Antoinette Burns' death was different.

They still have not received a completed death certificate, eight months after the 22-year-old woman was found dead at a closed drive-in movie theater at 2700 NW 87th St.

Missing from the form is a cause of death.

An insurance company is refusing to pay a claim until the cause is listed. That may be weeks more, said the victim's mother, Annie.

"The hardest part is trying to catch up on the funeral," she added. "It cost about \$3,000. Last month, we finished paying it off. But that threw us behind in our rent."

She said she also is struggling to

support Lattimore's daughters, ages 3 and 6, on an \$86-a-month welfare check the government provides for the two girls.

A social worker said the grandmother cannot receive more since she is already receiving a check for another daughter's six children.

Annie Lattimore said she relied on her daughter to help cook meals, clean house and tend the children. Even though her daughter was addicted to crack, she managed to be a great help, the mother added.

Now, she said, "it's hard on me." Like many other parents, she believes her daughter was abducted. She was last seen getting into a car with a man.

Williams pops up in Lattimore's case as well.

He hung out at the same corner crack den where Lattimore went, said her sister Gail Griffin.

The sister, who called herself a friend of Williams, said he came over a couple of times to their home. She said she didn't know if Williams knew her sister.

Meanwhile, the family of the youngest victim, Antoinette Burns, is also waiting to receive a completed death certificate to collect insurance money.

She was last seen alive last Dec. 11 after she hitched a ride with a neighbor to go to the movies. She was let out near the Scott Projects. The next day, her body was found under a tree 26 blocks north.

"For a while, I was out there investigating myself," said her mother, Lorean Rahming. "I used to go out every morning from my house to Northwest 62nd Street where she disappeared. I tried to find the guy she knew. If anybody had seen her in the area. But nobody knows nothing."

Antoinette was a boy-crazy teenager who was trying to decide what school she wanted to attend, her mother said. Before she returned to her grandmother's Ops-locka home, she had been staying with an aunt in

a small town in Florida. Her family sent her there because she had been running with a bad pack of girls.

From the start, her family suspected foul play.

For weeks, they stubbornly fought off police and medical examiner's theories that Antoinette, along with many other victims, had died from a dose of crack cocaine and sex.

"I kept telling them that my child didn't do drugs," said Rahming. "But no one was listening to me."

"Walking to the bushes to have sex" added Antoinette's grandmother, Thelma Rahming. "Not Antoinette. That sounds kind of strange."

At the funeral, they noticed that her lips were swollen "like somebody had hit her or something," Lorean said.

They also protested that Antoinette wasn't a convicted prostitute like some of the other victims.

Authorities started listening to the family when no cocaine was found in Antoinette.

That was the break some detectives needed to present their own theories that a killer was at work.

"It just didn't feel right," said Wesolowski, a veteran homicide investigator who leads a team of Metro detectives.

All the women's death scenes — many of them including torn clothing and missing shoes — pointed to homicide, he said.

"You get certain vibes when you look at different scenes," he said. "It's like when you're approaching a drug suspect who's wearing designer jeans, a beeper and gold jewelry. You just know."

Last week, both the investigator and Antoinette's mother were interviewed for the nationally syndicated program *A Current Affair*.

Although they've never met, their hopes, to be spread throughout the nation in the episode, were the same. They want to end the mystery.

Coroner: Somebody killed 19 women

By ROSEMARY GOUDREAU
Herald Staff Writer

On a second look, the Dade Medical Examiner's Office has found a common thread in the mysterious deaths of 19 young Miami women over the past 2½ years — murder.

Medical Examiner Joseph Davis personally re-examined autopsy reports and photographs of the women's bodies and released a report Tuesday that says someone applied pressure to the necks or mouths of many of the victims.

The six-page report does not mention the two unusual theories his department had offered to explain the deaths: that a small amount of cocaine combined with sexual intercourse killed them, or that the women choked to death during oral sex.

The women, all black except for one Hispanic, have been found dead since December 1986 in outside areas of Dade — open fields, behind buildings, in the bushes. All were found lying on their backs with their skirts

pulled up or their pants pulled down, their legs spread apart. All were found between downtown Miami and Northwest 102nd Street, except for one found in Hialeah.

Initially, the medical examiner's office said the bodies showed no sign of trauma — no bruises, no needle marks, no signs of a struggle. Only recently did they suggest the possibility that somebody was killing them.

The Davis report changes that.

"It is my considered conclusion that the re-

petitive pattern of body position, location and scene circumstances constitute a reasonable conclusion as to manner of death — homicide," Davis wrote.

Only nine of the women's bodies were found soon enough after death to allow detailed studies of the skin, but seven of them showed "subtle evidence" of "carefully ap-

PLEASE SEE SLAYINGS, 3B

Examiner: Somebody killed 19 women

SLAYINGS, FROM 1B

plied neck pressure," Davis wrote.

Four of the nine showed "mild or moderate pressure to the mouth," he reported.

"It is not at all difficult to inflict enough neck pressure to result in helplessness and loss of consciousness within seconds," he wrote. "A weakened or unsuspecting victim may be fatally incapacitated with little or no residual signs of physical injury."

Davis did not return phone calls to his office Tuesday.

John Farrell, chief of detectives for the Metro-Dade Police Department, said his department is keeping "an open mind" about the paths since no specific cause has been rendered. His department has always investigated the cases as though they were homicides, he said.

"There's a lot of this we don't understand and we don't have the answers," Farrell said. "Davis is saying, 'It's my feeling this is homicide, and I'm the boss.'"

"He's not saying that absolutely,

this is the way these women were killed. He's talking about subtle evidence. . . . Anything is possible, but you're not doing this in some clinical situation where the exact pressure points will be touched. These are live people, streetwise people. We have still not established a very specific manner of death," he said.

Farrell isn't ready to dismiss the theory that a small amount of cocaine combined with sexual stimulation killed some of the women. According to the theory, initially put forth by Deputy Dade Medical Examiner Charles Wetli, the combina-

tion can set off a fatal nervous reaction in run-down people who regularly abuse drugs.

"We certainly don't discount it totally at this point in time when we don't have other than 'subtle evidence' of injuries," Farrell said.

Still, the department continues to look for people with a history of beating up prostitutes or women around crack houses, he said. One of the homicide sergeants leaves today for the FBI Behavioral Profile bureau in Quantico, Va. The agency keeps a data base and has behavior analysts who might help investigators figure out the type of killer, or killers, they might be looking for.

Investigators have questioned convicted rapist Charles Henry Williams in with the deaths. Williams, held at the Dade County jail on unrelated rape charges, has a history of choking his victims to unconsciousness.

"The important thing is that the general public does not seem to be at risk here," said Farrell. "In most of these cases, it's associated with people in the crack-house environment. It doesn't make the death any less a death. It's important. But we don't want to alarm the public at large."

Miami Herald

5/31/89

Deaths of 19 Prostitutes Pose a Mystery in Miami

By JEFFREY SCHMALZ

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, June 3 — The circumstances suggest foul play. The bodies of all 19 women were found in the same section of the city in outside areas like fields, or they were behind buildings. Yet medical examiners said they had found no wounds on the bodies, no bruises, no scratches, no needle marks. Nothing.

For months officials here have been debating the deaths, which occurred over the last two and a half years. One assistant medical examiner speculated that the women, who the police say were prostitutes, may have died from the combined stimulation of sex and crack.

This week, Dade County's Medical Examiner, Dr. Joseph H. Davis, issued his formal determination: the women were murdered. He did not address whether the victims had been killed by the same person, but the announcement raised the specter of a serial killer preying on local prostitutes.

Dr. Davis said a re-examination of photographs and autopsy reports had revealed that pressure had been applied to the victims' necks or mouths. Aiding the medical examiner in his evaluation was Dr. Richard Souviron, an expert in forensic dentistry whose findings helped convict the serial killer Ted Bundy.

"One might question," Dr. Davis wrote, "how such deliberate deaths could occur in the absence of obvious injury patterns that we see in most homicidal strangulations and suffocations. It is not at all difficult to inflict enough neck pressure to result in helplessness and loss of consciousness within seconds."

Dr. Davis acknowledged that the physical evidence of murder was "subtle." And in defense of his finding, he in-



Associated Press

Dr. Joseph H. Davis, Dade County Medical Examiner, who has determined that 19 women found dead in Miami in similar positions and with no signs of violence were murdered.

Are they subtle murders or reactions from sex and crack?

cluded a discourse about how a medical examiner's conclusions were often based not on the body itself but on the circumstances in which it was found.

All the dead women, who ranged in age from 14 years old to 32, were black, except one, who was Hispanic. Most were crack users, the police said. All were found on their backs, with either their dresses pulled up or their pants pulled down; their legs were spread.

"It is my considered conclusion," Dr. Davis wrote, "that the repetitive pattern of body position, location and scene circumstances constitutes a reasonable conclusion as to manner of death — homicide."

But rather than create alarm, the Medical Examiner's report has been received warily. The Miami Herald did not even print the article about it on its front page. And police officials, while saying they are investigating the cases as murders, say they are not convinced that the deaths were really homicides.

"We're not discounting that there could be other explanations," said John

Farrell, chief of detectives of the Metro-Dade Police Department. "The motivation of Dr. Davis, I think, was under some pressure in preparing to come up with a reason."

Skepticism About Report

Police officers say it is difficult to believe that at least some of the victims would not have struggled with their killer. They say serial killers of prostitutes tend to be the most vicious derangers of all, slashing or otherwise mutilating their victims, not leaving them unscarred.

The police say they have not abandoned the theory that the women died from the combined stimulation of sex and crack. While they acknowledge that the levels of cocaine found in the victims were insufficient for an overdose, they say their experience with crack is that a small amount can induce fatal psychotic fits.

But the police also acknowledge holes in the cocaine theory. Two of the women had no cocaine in their bodies. And with the exception of one, the deaths have all occurred in the same area directly north of downtown Miami. If the deaths were indeed linked to sex and crack, why would they be limited to that section?

No Comment on Clues

In interviews some leading medical examiners elsewhere in the country cautioned that while they were familiar with the specifics of the Miami deaths, they thought Dr. Davis' conclusions were plausible. The examiners said they were not seeing a rash of similar prostitute deaths in their cities and this led them to conclude that the sex-cocaine theory was probably inaccurate.

As for there being virtually no signs of trauma on the victims' bodies, Charles Hirsch, the Chief Medical Examiner of New York City, said: "It is not unusual for there to be no signs of trauma. It is perfectly consistent with a sudden evaluation of cases like this to consider the history and circumstances. Sometimes that's about all you have to go on."

The police would not comment on what physical evidence had been found at the death scenes — whether, for example, they had found hairs from a killer or fingerprints. They have mentioned at least two men but have brought no charges.

Meanwhile, police officers have been warning black prostitutes to be wary. They say that, in addition to the deaths, crack use has brought about an overall increase in brutality against prostitutes.

The prostitutes' reaction has been fatalistic.

Chief Farrell said: "They tell us you're not a user, you don't understand the high. They tell us to leave them alone."